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## In Crete.

It is becoming evident from the persistence of the Greeks that we are not yet in possession of full information regarding the situation in Crete. The telegrams received from the various correspondents and agencies are contradictory in many important particulars, especially as to the willingness or unwillingness of the Cretan population to accept autonomy or to be annexed to Greece. It has been made clear that the Cretan Christian population does not resent the presence of the Greek troops in the island for they have received them and Col. Vassou, their commander, with open arms; and the sole fact that the Greeks are taking up position in Sfakia, the citadel of Crete and of every insurrection, is a proof that the Cretans and Greeks are in complete accord.

The Mussulman Bays of the island have, since 1889, become convinced that, so far as their own interests are concerned, there is no half way between the sovereignty of the Sultan and annexation to Greece. If not highly educated men, they are extremely intelligent as a rule, and have not failed to observe that all the governments of the freed States of Europe Turkey that of Greece is the one under which their political and social rights would be the most respected. They have the example before them in Thessaly, where the Mussulman population is on a footing of complete equality with the Christian Greeks.

The question really is not whether the Cretans do or do not wish for autonomy, but whether it can be forced on them against their will. Their keen instincts tell them that behind the offers of autonomy under the powers, and the disarmament of the Mussulmans by the foreign troops, is the disarmament of the entire Christian population; and to that it is extremely unlikely they will submit. And then the trouble will begin, for, of course, once the demand is made, for the representatives of the powers, under the plea of assuring the safety of the unarmed Mussulmans from the armed Christians, it will have to be enforced; and it is clear that the contingents of six hundred men each sent by the intervening powers will be insufficient for the purpose.

Only one of two things can then follow, the abandonment of the island to its own population and to Greece, or an occupation by a large force, of which the present detachments are but an advanced guard. Under actual conditions the latter course is the more likely. In so far as the Sultan is concerned, he is too averse to see that Crete has passed from under his rule for ever, but he is perfectly satisfied to allow it to become a bone of contention over which his own enemies may fall out among themselves; and he may be relied on to facilitate this by every means in his power.

Peace is by no means so assured as it seemed a week ago. An Austro-Hungarian army corps is concentrated on the frontier of Bosnia, ready to enter into Novi Bazar and interpose itself between Montenegro and Serbia. The minor Balkan States are all ready to take the field, and the Russian Black Sea fleet and an expeditionary corps are ready to direct themselves wherever required by Russian policy. The Sultan contemplates mobilizing all over the empire, from the Bosphorus to the Persian frontier. The Hamidieh cavalry, in Asia Minor, composed entirely of Kurds, has been called out, and the reserves of the Fourth Army Corps in Armenia are warned for service.

## Absolute Independence for Cuba.

Spain is sending no more troops to Cuba. She has sent no more. She is not sending money to pay those who are there now, and for the same reason: she has none to send.

The campaign which is now drawing to a close finds Weyler's troops behind barricades and in fortresses. They are discouraged by the dismal failure of their attempts to make any progress toward putting down the "rebellion" and are disheartened at the prospect of months of idleness in which disease will be as fatal to them as bullets, with large arrears of pay due them, and no prospect of success in sight to keep up their spirits or inspire them with hope. The patriots, on the other hand, are in possession of the open country and exercise all authority therein. The successful end of their heroic struggles approaches, and as it comes nearer we hear suggestions that peace should be restored upon Spain's granting "autonomy" to them if they will lay down their arms and return to their allegiance, the United States guaranteeing the performance of Spain's agreement, or Cuba agreeing to pay an indemnity in case the independence of the island is acknowledged.

This is an invention of the enemy. There is, there can be, only one solution to the Cuban question which will give peace and bring prosperity to the island, and that is absolute independence. The proposition to grant to its inhabitants "autonomy," if accepted by them, will not answer the purposes for which they took up arms. Similar promises have often been made and as often broken, and they will continue to be broken. The present suggestion is coupled with the condition that the United States guarantee the performance of any promises which Spain may make to her colonists. Neither the executive officers nor the Congress of the United States have the power to do anything which they are not authorized to do by the Constitution; and the Constitution has not authorized Congress or any department of the Government to establish a bureau wherein the performance of obligations assumed by a foreign Government may be guaranteed by the United States. What form would such a guarantee take?

How could it be enforced? The Cubans were to accept the proposition, if made; of what benefit would "autonomy" be to them? Autonomy means nothing beyond giving them a voice in the management of their local affairs. It would not take them out of the category of

subjects. It would not relieve them from the power under which their substance is now squeezed out of them by the screws of taxation and export duties. It would not save them from having an army quartered upon them in time of peace. It would not secure to them a proper representation in the national council, nor protect them from the swarms of Spanish border officials who fill all the offices of the Government on the island. It would add nothing to their manhood, their rights, or their prosperity. Nothing short of absolute independence would do that. To secure this, not "autonomy," they took up arms. For this they have fought and suffered. It would be suicidal in them to be satisfied with less, now that success is so certain.

This is the only solution of the struggle in which they are engaged which can benefit them, even from a material point of view. Suppose they lay down their arms and return to their allegiance, in what condition would the island be found? Devastated. The soil will always remain, but the successful cultivation of the crops, which gives it its financial value, requires enormously expensive machinery. That which was on the island has been destroyed. By whom will it be replaced? Not by the Cubans, for they have no money. Not by native Spaniards, and for the same reason. Experience has proved to Europeans and to citizens of the United States that they can place no confidence in the permanency of any peace which may be patched up between the people of the island and the mother country, and there are no conditions by which the terms of such a peace could be enforced. The Cubans would not invest millions in machinery which could be destroyed in an hour. On the other hand, if the independence of the island is acknowledged and the Cubans erect a stable form of government thereon, capital will flow to them in greater volume than they will need. With peace assured, there is no other country where money would find quicker or more profitable employment, and money is always to be found for safe investments.

The suggestion that the Cubans should be willing to purchase their independence is not to be considered. Let them conquer it. Why should they pay for it? No part of Spain's vast debt has ever incurred to their benefit. So far from that, the money expended from them by Spain is only to be counted in billions. After having been despoiled by her, why should they be made to pay the sums, or any part thereof, which have been spent in attempts to keep them in servile subjection?

The absolute independence of Cuba is, also, indispensable to the maintenance of uninterrupted peace between the United States and Spain. For fifty years that island has been an unrelenting and constant source of disagreement and entanglement between the two countries, that at times have brought the two countries to the very verge of war. Under Spain it has been, and will continue to be, a thorn in our side. During the entire period of our civil war its proximity to our shores made it a point from which we were constantly harassed. Vessels laden with every kind of contraband of war and with supplies sailed openly from Cuban ports to the coast of the Southern Gulf States. They would do so again under similar circumstances. No land officials attempted them, or would attempt in future, to prevent them from being laden or despatched. No war vessels at sea were present to intercept them even when they were in Cuban waters. We captured the vessels so engaged when we could, but after the war was over no indemnity was asked for these unfriendly and harmful acts.

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China-Japanese war, the report is said to have been current in Shanghai that Russia had obtained the consent of the Peking Government to construct the Siberian-Pacific Railway by the short cut across Chinese Manchuria. Now, at all events, the publication of the agreement of Sept. 8, 1896, sanctioning the construction of the Eastern Siberian-Pacific Railway, 1,280 miles in length, passing through Chinese Manchuria, shows that Russia has at length gained her wish in this important matter. That the sanction of this project is considered in Russia as the prelude to the annexation of Chinese Manchuria is evident from a paragraph which was allowed to appear in the Russian press on the return to Odessa in November, 1896, of the Russian Special Mission which had been sent to inspect Manchuria. According to this paragraph, "the Chinese are not only delighted with the idea of a railway, from which they expect great benefits both in commerce and agriculture, but openly state that they would be more than delighted if all Manchuria became Russian territory, and that the greater part of the inhabitants would, in such a case, cut off their pigtails, or, in other words, become Russian subjects."

What would Russia gain by the acquisition of Chinese Manchuria? Having observed that much misconception exists upon the subject, Mr. HALLETT answers the question, not from a strategic but from an industrial point of view. He explains to us first that Siberia, though it contains an area of 5,589,289 square miles, has a population of but 6,539,531 souls. This is because, owing to the excess of moisture, less than one-twelfth of its superficies is cultivable. Were it not for its furs, mines, fisheries, and forest products, and its importance as a penal settlement, Siberia would hardly be worth having. Chinese Manchuria, on the other hand, is eminently adapted to agriculture, sheltered as it is from the Polar blasts by the mountains forming the watersheds of the Amur and its affluent, the Ussuri. Ten years ago its population was estimated at between 22,000,000 and 23,000,000. Not only do the cereals thrive in the country, but cotton, indigo, and tobacco are grown by the peasant, while its orchards are reported to produce the finest pears in the Chinese Empire. It is said that all the cattle and grain required for the consumption of the residents and workmen of the Russian mines, works, and industrial establishments in the region traversed by the Amur for over 750 miles, are derived from the Manchurian province.

So much for the agricultural value of Chinese Manchuria, which, the moment the Eastern Siberian Railway is completed, will be virtually incorporated with Siberia. The further fact is recalled by Mr. HALLETT that, with the King of Corea a puppet in the hands of Russia, we may learn any day that its kingdom has been included in the Russian dominions. When these two annexations have been carried out, Russia's population in Asia will have been increased by nearly 40,000,000 new subjects. As for the political and strategic importance of the agreement entered into between the Chinese Government and the Russo-Chinese Bank, it is manifest that the pseudo-Chinese but really Russian railways, dotted with Russian stations and permeating Manchuria from east to west and from north to south, and connected with the Chinese capital by their junction with the North China Railway at Shanhaikwan, will place the Peking Government entirely at the mercy of Russia, while the possession of the extensive harbor of Kiaochow will enable the latter power to dominate the whole of the Chinese dominions lying to the north of the basin of the Yangtze.

Let the People Know About the Civil War Payments.

The failure of the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill and of the General Deficiency Appropriation bill in the last days of the Fifty-fourth Congress will make it necessary for the Fifty-fifth Congress to pass these bills prior to the 1st of July, 1897; and the general question of appropriation bills is, therefore, before us for discussion.

Mr. CANNON of Illinois, the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, thinks that there are too many appropriation bills, and that instead of fourteen there ought not to be more than ten; and he says by such consolidation much time now wasted in irrelevant general debate and formal proceedings would be saved to the House. We do not agree with Mr. CANNON. When we take into view the length of the session, and the actual number of hours given up to the consideration of the appropriation bills, we think that the enormous sums of money appropriated do not receive enough attention in general debate; and this view is sustained by the fact that the River and Harbor bill, carrying some \$72,000,000, was passed in the first session of the Fifty-fourth Congress under a suspension of the rules, without an opportunity for discussion or amendment, and that in the recent consideration of the Sundry Civil and General Deficiency bills a member was fortunate if he could obtain an opportunity to speak for five minutes in the debate.

The real difficulty in the matter of appropriations seems to be that too much money is appropriated, and not that it is appropriated in fourteen bills instead of ten bills. The lesser number of bills in itself would not affect the total sum of the appropriations, and that is now the main cause of complaint.

According to our view, moreover, River and Harbor items should not be provided for in the Sundry Civil bill or the General Deficiency bill, but should all be provided for in the River and Harbor Appropriation bill proper.

Another marked improvement which is called for by the public interest is that all appropriations growing out of the civil war should be grouped together in one bill to be termed "The Civil War Appropriations." Whether such enormous appropriations be justifiable or not, it is certain that the people at large should know by an inspection of one bill how much money they are called upon to pay by reason of the war which terminated some thirty-two years ago. For instance, this bill should read:

"An Act making appropriations for purposes connected with the civil war."

I. For pensions for injury received or disease contracted in the service and in line of duty, \$40,000,000.

II. For pensions under the Dependents Pension act of 1890, the injury or disease not having been contracted in the service, but the pensions arising simply out of a service of ninety days, \$81,000,000.

III. For special pension bills passed in violation of existing law, and to please the constituents of individual members of Congress, \$10,000,000.

IV. For pensions to deserters, ex-Confederates, and bounty jumpers, \$1,000,000.

V. For the maintenance and increase of soldiers' homes, under the National Home for Disabled Soldiers at Dayton, O.; the Northwestern branch at Milwaukee, Wis.; the Eastern branch at Togus, Me.; the Southern branch at Hampton, Va.; the Western branch at Leavenworth, Kan.; the Pacific branch at Santa Monica, Cal.; the Marine branch at Marion, Ind.; the new branch at Danville, Ill.; and the Northern branch at New Springs, R. D., \$2,500,000.

VI. For continuing aid to State or Territorial bonds, \$655,000.

VII. For back pay and bounty, \$225,000.

VIII. For bounty to volunteers and their widows amounting to \$1,910,000.

IX. For compensation of railroads to prisoners of war to retail States and soldiers on furloughs, \$4,000.

X. For national cemetery, \$1,515,000.

XI. For roads to national cemeteries at San Francisco, Cal.; Pensacola, Fla.; and Springfield, Mo., \$17,700.

XII. For military parks, \$175,000.

And last, for a State road in Georgia from Lee and Gordon's Mill to Lafayette, \$26,000.

Without expressing any opinion upon the other civil war appropriations to which we have drawn attention, it should be noted that the last item, the improvement of a State road in Georgia, would seem to constitute a new departure in Federal legislation. If, in addition to the contracts for work on remote rivers and unknown harbors within the various States and the laying out of great military parks in wild, if not desert, localities, we are henceforth to appropriate the national revenues for the construction or maintenance of State roads, the only limit in the future will be not the character of the so-called public use or purpose, but the fancy or caprice of Congress. If the construction of a State road can be considered a national or Federal purpose, then every line of delimitation between a Federal use and one in its nature purely a State use, will be forever obliterated.

New Dealings with Nicaragua.

The discussion in the Senate Foreign Committee of the expediency of negotiating with Nicaragua a treaty similar to the Frelinghuysen-Zavala agreement of twelve years ago, may open a new stage in the Isthmian canal project.

That agreement grew out of the firm conviction of President ARTHUR's Administration that the interoceanic canal is a political necessity for us, must be built by our Government, and must be controlled and defended by us. To carry out that view Nicaragua was invited to send a special Commissioner to Washington, and sent Mr. JOACHIM ZAVALA. The result was the signing of a treaty by which our Government was to have an exclusive right of way across Nicaragua on a strip 2½ miles broad, and in return was to give that republic a specified share of any net canal earnings, and a guarantee to protect her territory, besides lending her \$4,000,000 to be expended on her public improvements.

This treaty was submitted in December, 1884, and was promptly ratified by Nicaragua. But in our Senate, while a good majority for it was secured, it failed of the necessary two-thirds vote, being 32 against 23. A motion to reconsider, however, still kept it before the Senate; but a few weeks later Mr. CLEVELAND became President and promptly withdrew the treaty from the Senate "for re-examination," as he said; and having thus got it, he never sent it back, in any form. Instead of doing so, he said, in his annual message, that he disapproved securing for the Government "paramount privileges of ownership or right, outside of our own territory, when coupled with absolute and unlimited engagements to defend the territorial integrity of the States where such interests lie." Mr. MORGAN recently said that he thought that the Senate on reconsideration would have ratified the treaty, but it never had another chance.

When Minister RODRIGUEZ a few weeks ago protested, on behalf of Nicaragua, against the present canal project, and the Frelinghuysen-Zavala treaty was referred to, Mr. SHERMAN declared himself in favor of having the canal built by the Government. Senator MORGAN was further, and said, during the debate, that suggestions were current that Mr. SHERMAN, when he became Secretary of State, would try to rehabilitate the treaty, and that, for himself, he had always preferred that treaty to any other arrangements.

Probably, however, we are not to look for the revival of the treaty of twelve years ago in its original form. The times have changed since 1885, and the fact that a canal has actually been started, under private arrangement with Nicaragua, cannot be ignored. Mr. SHERMAN, during the debate already spoken of, declared himself in favor of reimbursing fully the company whose interests are to be bought out. For other reasons, also, the pecuniary terms which we should make in a new treaty with Nicaragua might not be the same as in 1885. Again, the political arrangements of that date, which included a pledge to defend the territorial integrity of Nicaragua, might be affected somewhat by the present establishment of the Greater Republic of Central America, of which she now forms a part.

But the point of most immediate interest, perhaps, is that the old opposition to the Zavala treaty was based largely on the theory that this treaty would involve us in trouble with England, since it practically set aside the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. To the majority this objection, whether well or ill founded, was not insuperable. But we now have the remarkable statement that Mr. MORGAN has proposed for consideration a resolution declaring the Clayton-Bulwer treaty abrogated.

This action was taken after the conference of Secretary SHERMAN with the Foreign Relations Committee. It introduces a new and important question, and practically undertakes to remove all doubt as to American control of the canal. A proposal so important will, of course, require much time for its consideration, and no better opportunity could present itself than the interval of leisure which the Senate now has while waiting for the House to complete the tariff bill.

A Worthy Rabbi.

We have printed a report of the funeral ceremonies in honor of the late Rabbi LEVISON, who was buried last Sunday. This venerable Russian Jew, who was 85 years of age at the time of his death, had been for many years a veritable friend of his immigrant brethren living on the east side of the city. He was an Oriental scholar of unusual attainments, was a translator of the Talmud, or, rather, we suppose, of portions of that voluminous Hebrew classic, into the Arabic; was a master in the Moslem law, and had gained knowledge by travel in many lands. He was possessed of means when he came to New York, but in the course of time he expended them all for the benefit of his needy co-religionists, and, for years before his death, was no poor as to be dependent upon the bounty of friends who were better off than himself. Though not in charge of an altar, latterly, he frequently delivered discourses in synagogues, and his sermons were rendered all the more attractive by his great learning, his piety, orthodoxy, virtues, good works, and dignified character. He was as a prophet in Israel.

Of his beneficence, even in the years of his exceeding poverty, there are many tales of the kind that used to be told in the olden times. He would solicit alms from those who could afford to give them, for distribution among those who needed them. He would serve the humblest in a spirit of humility, teach the young, search out the afflicted, and minister to the friendless. There is one story told of him that reminds us of the words of the son of ZACHARIAH, as recorded